**WHAT IS IPAWS?**

Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) is a tool that Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (FSLTT) public safety agencies can use to notify the public of disasters and deliver emergency and public safety information.

FSLTT public safety agencies can sign up to become an **Alerting Authority**.

**ALERT PATHWAYS INCLUDE**

**Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)**
- Delivers messages to mobile phones

**Emergency Alert System (EAS)**
- Delivers messages to radio & television

**NOAA Weather Radio**
- Delivers weather-related and Non-Weather Emergency Messages (NWEM)

**OTHER ALERTING SYSTEMS**
- Digital Signage, public announcement systems, and more

**BENEFITS OF IPAWS**

**NO SIGN-UP REQUIRED TO RECEIVE ALERTS**
There is no need to sign up or subscribe to receive alerts from IPAWS. There is no cost to receive alerts.

**MINIMAL COST TO ALERTING AUTHORITIES**
There is no cost to send or receive alerts through IPAWS. Alerting Authorities may incur costs to purchase compatible alert origination software that meets IPAWS requirements.

**LOCAL TARGETING**
With IPAWS, Alerting Authorities can target specific geographic areas to ensure only those in the affected area, including visitors, receive the alert. The content and timing of alerts is at the discretion of Alerting Authorities. FEMA does not review, edit, approve, or disapprove alerts sent by public safety agencies.

**LANGUAGE & FUNCTIONAL ACCESSIBILITY**
WEA’s recipients can currently choose to display alerts in English or Spanish and EAS messages can include multilingual audio. IPAWS also allows for the integration of images and has text-to-speech capability to accommodate those with functional needs.

For any questions, please email [fema-ipaws-stakeholder-engagement@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-ipaws-stakeholder-engagement@fema.dhs.gov)
NOTE: BEFORE APPLYING, FIND OUT IF YOU ARE QUALIFIED.

Local authorities, please consult with your State IPAWS representative (typically found in the State Emergency Management Agency) about your ability to become an IPAWS Alerting Authority. Sovereign tribal and territorial authorities do not need to consult before applying. Other public or private-sector organizations may also be eligible depending on their public safety mission.

Detailed instructions for sign-up can be found on the IPAWS website. To sign up, you will be asked to complete the following:

1. Complete IPAWS Web-Based Training
2. Select an IPAWS Compatible Software
3. Apply for a Memorandum of Agreement with FEMA
4. Apply for Public Alerting Permissions

KEY SUCCESS POINTS

1,800+
There are currently 1,800+ IPAWS Alerting Authorities.

180+
AMBER Alerts via IPAWS have led to the recovery of more than 180 missing children.

600
Through IPAWS, over 600 WEA alerts are sent per month.

IPAWS IN ACTION

MASSACHUSETTS 11-YEAR-OLD ONE OF MANY RECOVERED THANKS TO AMBER ALERT

After a stranger forced an 11-year-old girl in Springfield, Massachusetts into his vehicle, an AMBER Alert was promptly sent out, spurring the community into action. An outpouring of videos and pictures of the suspected kidnapper and his vehicle flooded in, providing detectives with invaluable information that led to the safe recovery of the girl and the arrest of the kidnapper.

TORNADO SURVIVORS CREDIT WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT FOR SAVING THEIR LIVES

Survivors of a deadly tornado had more than luck to thank for their lives. At roughly 3 a.m., in the black of night, a tornado touched down in Bollinger County, Missouri, setting out on a path that left five dead and many injured and homeless. It could have been worse. A WEA sent by officials to all in the tornado’s path, allowed many people to seek shelter, potentially saving their lives.

POWER BLACKOUTS AVERTED THANKS TO WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT

Power blackouts can disrupt societies like few other disasters. They can sever communications, water supplies, and transportation; close gas stations, ATMs and grocery stores; prevent the use of medical devices; and cause mass food spoilage. A record-breaking California heatwave led to an extraordinarily high level of energy consumption. The state’s power grid was strained and power blackouts were imminent. A critical WEA was sent, asking Californians to “conserve energy now”. Within five minutes, energy usage had reduced across the state by nearly 2.4 percent, leaving enough power to prevent disaster.

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